

South Carolina Phytoplankton Collaborative Efforts:



At Sea!

Shipboard Oceanographic Research Experiences



South Carolina Phytoplankton Monitoring Network's (SCPMN) staff aided Project Oceanica's At SEA! program in identifying local plankton species during this year's 2002 fall cruises aboard NOAA's R/V Ferrel. The purpose of these cruises is to actively engage local area high school and college students, as well as middle school teachers, in a series of data and sampling techniques. During the cruise from Charleston Harbor's Cooper River to offshore beyond the harbor's jetties students rotate through research stations which include such elements as a CTD cast, sediment grab, plankton tow and identification, and navigation and plotting techniques. With samples in hand students and teachers were asked to bring their data home for analysis. Each group is then asked to give a short community seminar to present their results and conclusions. Included in the 89 participants were SCPMN volunteers from 8 local area high schools. During several of the cruises SCPMN volunteers found potentially toxic species of *Pseudo-nitzschia* and *Dinophysis*. However, no species was found in high enough abundance to cause alarm. SCPMN staff look forward to working with new contacts and congratulate current volunteers on a job well done!



COASTeam Program

Marine Science for Teachers



This year NOAA staff was involved in bringing the South Carolina Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (SCPMN) into Project Oceanica's COASTeam program. We were excited to discuss our program, introduce local phytoplankton species, talk about their ecological importance, and show how teachers can incorporate this program into their existing curriculum. The COASTeam Program offers integrated courses in which teachers learn marine science concepts in the fields of geology, biology, chemistry, and physics. The courses teach these concepts using South Carolina's coast as an excellent "classroom," providing teachers with relevant, local examples to carry back to their own classrooms while meeting a variety of SC Science Curriculum Standards.

For More Information About Project Oceanica and its Programs Please Visit Their Website :

<http://oceanica.cofc.edu/home.htm>